



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAR - 4 2004

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SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

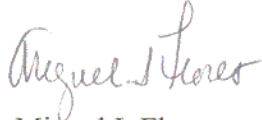
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the final document *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report for the Upper Rio Chama Watershed*. Based on our review, detailed in the enclosed documents, we conclude that the TMDLs listed below meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR §130.7. EPA is therefore pleased to approve the loadings contained in the TMDLs listed below.

<u>Water Body</u>	<u>Subsegment Number</u>	<u>Pollutant of Concern</u>
Rio Chamita - Rio Chama to CO border	NM-2116.A_110	Aluminum
Rio Chama - Rio Brazos to Little Willow Creek	NM-2116.A_001	Temperature
Chavez Creek - Rio Brazos to headwaters	NM-2116.A_081	Temperature
Rio Brazos - Rio Chama to Chavez Creek	NM-2116.A_080	Temperature
Rito De Tierra Amarilla - Rio Chama to Hwy 64	NM-2116.A_070	Turbidity, Temperature, and Stream bottom deposits

EPA also acknowledges that these loadings will be incorporated as updates to the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that while included in the NMED submittal, implementation plans are not required by current regulations, and this approval does not address the existence or the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within this submission.

We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Merrit Nicewander of my staff at (214) 665-7519.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Miguel I. Flores". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Miguel" and last name "Flores" clearly distinguishable.

Miguel I. Flores
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures